Report on Kabul Widows' Tailoring Project

12th April 1994 - 14th August 1994











A collaboration between

CARE, UNICEF
and
Afghan Women's High Association

FINAL REPORT FOR

KABUL WIDOWS' FOOD FOR WORK TAILORING PROJECT

SUMMARY SHEET

Project Title:		Kabul Widows' Food for Work Tailoring Project
Submitting Agency:		CARE Afghanistan
Implementing Partner		Afghan Women's High Association (AWHA)
Province/District:		Kabul, Afghanistan
Starting Date:		April 12th 1994
Completion Date:		August 14th 1994
Duration:		18 weeks
Objectives:	1)	To develop the capacity of AWHA in managing socio-economic projects;
	2)	To provide food-for-work to meet the daily survival needs of 100 widows and their children;
	3)	To provide independent earning opportunities to approximately 300 vulnerable widows within the next 6 months and gradually increase the target to 500 by the end of 1994;
	4)	To expand and replicate similar activities to other districts in Kabul.
Beneficiaries:	1.	100 widows and their families (planned); 11,06 widows and their families (actual)
	2.	6 AWHA staff and the organization of AWHA.
UNICEF COST:		US$ 17,408
CARE COST:		US$ 27,347
TOTAL COST		**US$ 44,755**



1. BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

1.1 Situation at beginning of Project

Since the beginning of January 1994, Kabul city has experienced renewed fighting between the government held parts of the city and the opposition based in the south. These clashes have caused over 200,000 civilians to flee the city to neighbouring provinces and displaced an estimated 300,000 within the city. In addition, factories, businesses and schools are closed, government offices are barely functioning and few inhabitants receive regular salaries. As a result of the blockade of a large part of the city by the opposition, the cost of food and other basic commodities have soared in the government-held areas where a large part of the remaining population of the city have taken refuge. Those sectors of the community who are particularly vulnerable in these circumstances are widows without any family support, mothers with small children, orphans and the disabled.

This project was initially researched and designed in December 1993, when CARE had just set up an office in Kabul. Research showed that vulnerable low income groups such as widows, orphans and mothers with small children were suffering in the cold winter from the high costs of food and fuel. One of the most interesting organisations that CARE identified as an Afghan partner, was the Afghan Women's High Society (AWHA), originally established in 1947 and with a long history of social work and skills-training for women. Since the advent of the Islamic regime this organisation had been expanded to include three women's organisations: the Women's Democratic Council, formed under the previous communist regime, the Afghan Women's Society originally founded in 1947 to provide literacy and tailoring courses, and the Jehadi Sisters, a group of women who worked underground in Kabul with the mujahideen during the communist regime. The staff of AWHA comprises of over 600, some volunteers and some paid by the President's office to whom they submit a periodical request for funding..

In February 1994 CARE's project officer visited Kabul and recontacted AWHA which had been forced to evacuate its offices in Shar-e-Naw and was temporarily relocated in Khairkhana. The President and members of the organisation felt that despite the difficult situation in Kabul, the food-for-work project discussed in December could go ahead, on a small scale. CARE subsequently prepared a project proposal with UNICEF which was signed and started at the beginning of April 1994.

1.2 Situation at Conclusion of Project

The security situation in Kabul did not improve in Kabul during the 4.5 months of the project and there was intermittent rocketing in all parts of the city. This did not impede the work of the project, however, which was successfully completed. This is primarily because the project participants worked from their own homes and only a few project staff were required to move around the city for monitoring purposes. The major constraint to the project, however, has been the blockade of routes leading to the government-held parts of the city which has severely restricted the passage of food and materials. This has resulted in a sharp rise in the costs of food and basic commodities and also a scarcity of some project materials such as cotton stuffing (pakhta) for the quilts. The last week's work was also affected; the food payment was not given to the participants because CARE was not been able to restock its warehouse in Kabul. If wheat has not arrived one month after the completion date of the project, CARE has proposed to WHA that the cash equivalent of the wheat be paid to the participants from the revolving income fund.

A total of 1,106 women participated in the project and produced 594 quilts, 2,656 pairs of shalwar kameez and 110 mattresses and pillows. These goods were sold at subsidised prices or cost price to displaced families and NGOs assisting displaced families. The total income in the revolving fund at the end of the project amounts to over Afs 900,000 or $3,221 (calculated at Kabul August 14th exchange rate of Afs 2,900 per US dollar). However some items remain unsold at the time of writing. The potential total income amounts to $5,067. For their work, the project participants and supervisors received food payment of 46 metric tonnes of wheat up until 14th August 1994. The balance for the last week of work remains to be paid.

The AWHA was satisfied with the results of the project and felt it was extremely beneficial for the target group. Despite discussions about starting other types of income-generating projects, such as bakeries; poultry-rearing and sweet-making, they had decided that the tailoring project should be concentrated on and expanded for a new 6 month proposal.

2. ACHIEVEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

2.1 Objective: To develop the capacity of the Afghan Women's High Society (AWHA) in managing socio-economic projects.

Output: The "empowerment" of the AWHA will mean effective involvement in networking the activities of women in Kabul, in relating information, coordinating and managing income-generating activities and in organizing literacy and health classes.

Objective Achieved:
There were seven members of AWHA involved in running this project. The project manager was responsible for overall management of the project and monitoring in each district along with CARE's project assistant. Two technical supervisors were responsible for controlling the quality of the items made by visiting the project participants in each district and showing the women how to improve their work. These ladies were made part-time in the second half of the project in order to provide a post for a fourth district supervisor. As part-time supervisors, they were expected to spend 3 days a week each on monitoring their two districts and preparing lists of displaced families in public buildings who wanted to buy clothes. The four district supervisors surveyed and selected participants from their districts; distributed and collected work, prepared lists and receipts of their participants and distributed food payment.

In an evaluation survey of the project, the AWHA staff itemised some of the skills they had acquired during the project (see Annexes). These skills included: conducting weekly door-to-door surveys of women in their districts and identifying participants; management of distribution of materials; monitoring and quality control of the products, the preparation of lists for sales and the selling of garments to displaced families.

In this project AWHA supervisors and the CARE female project assistant collaborated closely. Extensive monitoring was done in each district to check the type of participants; the quality of the work and the performance of the supervisors. The supervision by the CARE project assistant was reinforced by regular visits every 6 weeks by CARE's female expatriate project officer to monitor and discuss problems with AWHA staff. During these discussions the AWHA was encouraged to take a leading role in analysing problems, proposing solutions and changes and planning new directions. The project was aided greatly by the President of AWHA who took an active role in helping identify the participants and in distributing the work.

Some mistakes were in the beginning by the AWHA district supervisors in their selection of participants. For example they would choose women who could tailor well but who were not perhaps as needy as poorer tailors. This problem was minimised by emphasising technical supervision of the participants, by frequent monitoring by the AWHA project manager and CARE project assistant, and, by re-emphasising the criteria for project participants in project meetings held by the CARE expatriate officer. The participants were targeted as: widows or women whose husbands were missing, they should not have an adult male supporting them, they should have young children, a very low income, and be displaced. In fact, as already mentioned previously; the situation in Kabul is extremely difficult for most families and the supervisors have a difficult task choosing from amongst many needy candidates for the project.

In the last five weeks of the project, health education classes were conducted once a week in 3 districts by AVICENE Health Educators. The Health Educators, based in AVICENE's MCH clinics, were brought by CARE to a meeting place arranged by the district supervisor where she would talk to the participants about hygiene; nutrition and diahorrea. The feedback from the AWHA supervisors and the project participants was mixed. Some women said they already knew about hygiene and how to treat diahorrea and that they came because they were hoping to receive free milk or medicines from the "doctors". The Health Educators felt that one session with each group of women was not sufficient to really help the women solve their health problems. They were able, however, to identify malnourished children amongst the audience and refer them to local MCH clinics.

In terms of "empowerment", AWHA has gained experience in providing employment for a specific target group through this project. Previously AWHA was more of a skills-training organisation for women who could afford to enroll on their courses. This project and the proposed 6 month continuation is helping AWHA gain experience in project management and marketing. It must be pointed out, however, that the current economic problems in Kabul; the lack of electricity; the closure of businesses and other commercial enterprises and the scarcity of many goods and basic necessities; means that income-generating activities are very limited.

2.2 Objective: To provide food for work to meet the daily survival needs of 100 widows and their children.

Output: 100 widows and their families will have received assistance at a critical time in Kabul.

Objective Achieved:
The project was originally intended to benefit 100 women for 2 months. However, once the project started, there was such a demand for assistance amongst the women in each district that AWHA requested that the work be divided amongst a larger group of beneficiaries. In agreement with CARE, the district supervisors therefore surveyed and prepared lists of new participants every week. The project started in 3 districts initially: District 11 or Khairkhana; District 10 or Qalifitullah; District 4 or Karte Parwan, Tai Maskan and Bagh-e-Bola. After the first two months, District 2 or Shaharah, Karte Ariana was added to the project in order to increase production output by dividing the work amongst more participants each week. It was gauged that each district supervisor could manage a maximum of 25 participants each week.

The intermittent fighting in Kabul posed storage problems for the materials. AWHA had evacuated its large premises in Shar-e-Naw and CARE had no space in its office. Materials were therefore purchased on a weekly or bi-weekly basis and transported directly to the districts for the supervisors to distribute.

It became clear after the first few weeks, that the work could not be completed in two months and a request was made by CARE to UNICEF to extend the project. The project was extended to 18 weeks during which time an average of 69 women a week participated in the project, 1,237 women in total. Of these 131 women were given two week's work for which they received on average 70 kg of wheat in food payment. The amount of food payment depended on the items of work completed. The women were given 14 kg for every quilt made and 14 kg for each set of clothes, representing two days work. Women who made three quilts were entitled to 42 kg of wheat and those who made sets of clothes generally made four sets which entitled them to 56 kg of wheat. It is estimated that 70 kg of wheat will provide an average family of 7 people 35 days of bread at 0.5 kg per person per day.

According to the evaluation survey carried out at the end of the project, there is no doubt that the majority of the project participants are suffering from severe lack of income. This is due to the high prices of basic commodities in Kabul, small and irregularly paid government salaries, high inflation, and widespread unemployment. Many of the project participants depend on one member of the family to provide the necessities of life (sometimes an underage child). To meet their basic needs they have sold their family

possessions; rugs, fans, heaters, plates etc. This is a temporary measure and many women interviewed have now sold all they can. During the period of the project in spring and summer, this vulnerable sector of the community was already surviving with difficulty. One can envisage the problems that these women will face when the winter comes. Then there will not be any cheap, seasonal vegetables available and heating and cooking fuels will be even more expensive.

If the roads are still blocked by the continuing fighting for the last few months of 1994, then many vulnerable members of the community will starve or be forced to flee to other places. When the question was asked to some participants why they had not already left to stay with relatives in the provinces, they replied that either their relatives would not be able to support them, or they could not afford to travel to the provinces from which they originated.. Those who presently live in Kabul often have no other option.

The critical situation of most of the participants in this project has been temporarily alleviated by the work provided, but meanwhile the general economic and political crisis in Kabul has deepened. The need for widescale assistance in Kabul is paramount in the next six winter months if there is not to be a mass exodus of refugees to safer and cheaper havens, and starvation for those who remain..

2.3 Objective: To provide independent earning opportunities to approximately 300 vulnerable widows within the next 6 months and gradually increase the target to 500 by the end of 1994.

Output: Low cost warm clothing and blankets will be available for poor families. NGOs, who will address the need for the winter clothes/blankets for displaced and poor families in the coming winter, will have available supplies.

Objective Achieved:
Food payment was provided to 1,106 women in 4 districts in Kabul during this project. As has already been stated, earning opportunities are extremely limited in the present economic climate in Kabul. Many of the widows who participated in this project do try to earn some income from their tailoring and sewing skills. During the evaluation survey many widows said that they occasionally sewed neighbours' clothes or other items for small amounts of money or gifts in kind like food or fuel, but that this work was not nearly regular enough to be sufficient for their family needs. Involvement in the project did give the women some new skills in cutting and sewing clothes to fixed specifications but few of them have sufficient training to run their own tailoring businesses.

For many women this was also the first time they had ever been employed to make a specific number of items for a fixed payment. This introduction to commercial methods could be a potential catalyst for some participants with initiative to think of ways to use their newly-won skills. At the present time the question is where can they find customers who will pay them for their products, especially with the lack of trade coming in and going out of Kabul.

As mentioned in the introduction, this project was planned and written in December 1993 and was intended to start in January 1994. Due to the security situation it did not start until April 1994 so the need for warm knitted clothes and quilts was less of a priority. Quilts remained an item of production because many poor, illiterate women know how to make them. The quilts produced by the project were sold to NGOs assisting the displaced who can store them for the following winter. The knitted items originally planned were not made, instead shalwar kameez for men and women were sewn for sales during the summer months. Many women are given sewing machines when they marry, and even if they do not have one, they can usually borrow form a neighbour. It is interesting to note that among those women evaluated, their sewing machines were not sold however severe their economic circumstances, presumably because of the potential income-earning value of the machine.

The sets of shalwar kameez clothes produced were sold by AWHA for subsidised prices amongst displaced families in public buildings. The supervisors would ask the representatives of the families to make lists of

those interested in purchasing the clothes, the day before the sale. On the day of the sale, the supervisors would sell firstly to those people who had put their names on the list, then to other families if there were any clothes left over. All the clothes made by the project were sold, indeed the response in some schools was overwhelming. This is because the clothes were new, well-made and cheap. The sales of clothes to the displaced was due to the ideas and initiative of the AWHA project manager and was extremely successful. CARE helped to organise the sales of the quilts to other NGOs as it was necessary to find customers who were interested in stocking warm bedding for future use. If the project had started in the winter time, AWHA would have also sold the quilts to families living in public buildings or places where large numbers of the displaced could be identified.

2.4 Objective: To expand and replicate similar activities to other districts in Kabul

Output: That AWHA will have a running capital to expand and sustain income generation projects to 300 or more widows within the year.

Objective Achieved:
The expansion of activities occurred naturally in this project when more participants were employed in the project than originally envisaged; 1,106 as opposed to 100. The area of the project was also increased from three districts to four. These changes were a result of the demand for work by many women, and the need to divide the work more efficiently among the district supervisors. The further expansion of the project is envisaged in a six month extension of the project which will increase the number of participants to 1600 in four districts. This will be achieved by using 8 participants from the initial project to work as assistant technical supervisors in each district, thereby assisting AWHA staff in their monitoring role.

The income derived from sales of items made by the project is estimated at US$ 5,067. This is only an estimation because of three factors. Firstly, not all the payments for items sold had been received by CARE's Kabul office at the time of writing; secondly, the exchange rate of US dollars and Afghanis changes daily and the cost of living and prices of materials in Kabul rise every week; thirdly, the last week of work may have to be paid to the participants in cash rather than food payment and this payment will have to be deducted from the capital fund.

CARE had many discussions with AWHA during the 4.5 months of this project to decide how best to use the capital fund. Projects such as women's bakeries, poultry rearing and sweet-biscuit making were discussed. However, there were various drawbacks to all of these projects in terms of AWHA's experience in these areas and the availability of some inputs. It was finally agreed that expansion and continuation of the tailoring project was in the best interests of AWHA and the target group of widows and poor mothers. The main reasons are that tailoring and sewing skills are widespread amongst Afghan women of all social and economic backgrounds; the AWHA itself has much experience in managing sewing courses and supervising tailoring work, the products can be sold in many different outlets and to different sectors (for examples uniforms for schools, hospitals, sanitation workers) and, lastly, AWHA now has acquired further skills in purchasing and distribution of materials to home-based workers, in record-keeping and in sales as a result of the recent project. It was therefore decided to invest the income of the capital fund in the proposed expanded 6 month tailoring project. The best use of this income would be in fixed assets that would belong to the AWHA for future projects, such as sewing machines, blackboards and other training materials.

3. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

3.1 Logistics

The strategy of the project was community based in order to reach the target group. Project participants worked from their own homes and provided their own tools. The AWHA district supervisors lived in the districts and understood the needs and problems of their local communities.

The project required good logistical support because of its decentralised nature. Although the participants themselves delivered their work and collected their food payment from the district supervisors, the project required warehouses for storing the materials and transport for monitoring and distributing and collecting the products and food payment. Due to the security situation, neither AWHA nor CARE had the capacity to store large quantities of materials safely, so purchasing was done on a weekly basis. This took up more time and meant there was less material distributed each week than planned and therefore lower production. It also meant the cost price of the items produced by the project rose during the 4.5 months. For example, price of one quilt was originally costed at 12,000 Afs in April. The same item cost 20,000 Afs to make by August. In the future, if possible, materials should be purchased in bulk and stored in a warehouse at the beginning of the project to save time and money.

Transport for monitoring was by CARE's rented vehicle. The supervisors of AWHA proved to be mobile and energetic in monitoring but had to rely heavily on CARE vehicles for monitoring and collecting and distributing work as they had no vehicle of their own. Public transport is available in Kabul but is unreliable and overcrowded. For the purposes of this type of project, vehicles with a large transport capacity are essential (i.e. vans; pick-ups).

3.2 Risks and Constraints

As previously mentioned, Kabul is in a situation of emergency, with fighting affecting many parts of the city and causing the displacement of much of the population. This project was conceived to help needy women in these circumstances and evidently the project has been run in conditions of some difficulty. The primary problems are the blockade of the government-held areas and a subsequent scarcity of food and high prices for basic commodities, the virtual cessation of all trade and commercial business in the city, and the potential danger to life and property from rockets and the fighting.

Despite these constraints, the project has been completed and fulfilled many of its objectives because it has been able to adapt to the changing situation. The AWHA supervisors have proved their ability to work effectively in difficult conditions and CARE has managed to provide back-up in logistics and supervision despite the insecure situation. The success of the project is due to the hard work of the Afghan staff at AWHA and CARE and proves that both organisations feel that the target group of participants merits this commitment.

3.3 Monitoring

The project was monitored every 6 weeks by the CARE expatriate consultant. An independent monitor, Mrs Nancy Dupree of ARIC also visited the project in Kabul and saw the AWHA supervisors monitoring in District 11. She recommended stringent criteria for selection of participants but was also impressed by the mobility of the female staff of the project and the technical supervision. Nancy Dupree proposed the idea of making preserves and pickles for sale as a future income generating activity as many women have this experience.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

Please see report and budget attached in Annexes.

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This project was successful in two areas:- firstly; it not only provided food payment to alleviate some of the nutritional needs in needy families, but secondly, it also played an important psychological role in the lives of the participants. The women are given a means of supporting their families and an activity which absorbs them and provides them with skills and experience. It is interesting to not that some women interviewed in the evaluation survey had not previously made clothes or quilts but asked neighbours or friends to show them what to do initially (see Annexes). The loan of machines and the assistance of other women not involved in the project has strengthened local community ties and relations which have been weakened in the last 2 years by the displacement of many families who now rent rooms in different areas and often live next door to families who are strangers. The project has also given some of the participants access to health education and information on local health services which they otherwise would not have benefited from.

It is recommended that this project be expanded and continued because there is a serious need for assistance amongst the vulnerable sectors of the community in Kabul, particularly with winter approaching. Instead of wheat payment the participants have requested mixed food or wheat flour. An effort should be made by the NGO and UN community to find ways of negotiating the transport of food commodities into the government-held areas of Kabul on regular basis. If not; it is feared that a quarter of a million of people will be forced to leave the city as refugees.

It is recommended that AWHA be encouraged to strengthen its capacity for managing this type of project by being made completely responsible for purchasing and distribution of materials in the new project. CARE can maintain its supervisory and back-stopping role, but the day-to-day management, decision-making, and the report writing should become the prime responsibility of AWHA.

The possibility of encouraging needy women in Kabul to start their own businesses or projects at the present time seems unrealistic. Even if the women can be provided with loans to start their own projects; the prices of all materials are extremely high and there is no market for finished goods, so there is little chance of them making an income. In these circumstances of emergency it seems better to concentrate on training and building up skills within the existing community and local indigenous organisations so that in the future, both donors and participants can develop projects which will contribute to the economic growth of the community.

Fiona Gall
CARE Project Officer

6. ANNEXES

I Financial report

II Evaluation survey.

ANNEXE I

CARE International

Women Project Financial Statement

No.	Descriptions	Budget Amount	Total Expenses
1	Materials	$16,958	$16,878
2	Transportation of material	$450	$530
	Total :	$17,408	$17,408
	Fund Received :	$8,479	
	Balance Receivable :	$8,929	

This is to certify that the above expenditures are correct.

Certified By : Mohan Nepal
Finance/HRD Manager



ANNEXE II

EVALUATION SURVEY OF KABUL WIDOW'S FOOD FOR WORK TAILORING PROJECT

15th-18th August 1994

1. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF SURVEY

This evaluation survey was carried out at the end of the above-mentioned project in order to assess whether the aims of the project had been achieved. The project, funded by UNICEF and CARE, and implemented by CARE and the Afghan Women's High Association (AWHA) in Kabul was targeted at needy widows and women whose husbands were missing. The principle purpose of the project was to provide 100 needy participants with food for work and help them meet the daily survival needs of their families during a critical time in Kabul. Additional aims included selling the clothes and quilts made at subsidised prices to displaced families, and providing institutional-building experience and skills to the AWHA. With the capital fund from the income of the project sales, AWHA could to set up and manage other income-generating projects.

2. METHODOLOGY

The evaluation survey took the form of interviews with participants of the project. A survey form was devised with 4 sections (see copy attached):

Section 1 - consisted of the personal history of the participant and was devised to gain information about the woman, her family, her income and her housing situation.
Section 2 - sought information about the project and the amount of work the woman had done.
Section 3 - asked for details on nutrition and expenditure on food.
Section 4 - assessed what had been the impact of the health education component of the project.

The women interviewed were selected by random means. From the lists of project participants made by the district supervisors of AWHA every week the 4th name was picked from each week's list. If the selected person was not at home when the survey was carried out, then the 8th person on that week's list was selected.

It was originally intended to evaluate 80 women, 20 from each project district. However this proved impossible due to the security situation in Kabul and time constraints. In fact 26 women were interviewed, 8 in District 11; 8 in District 10, 8 in District 4 and 2 in District 2, the newest district. This data therefore can only give an indication of trends among the target group rather than conclusive results.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Section 1 - Income:

Of the 26 women interviewed, 18 had weekly incomes below 12000 Afs ($4), which is 70% of the surveyed group. The women with the lowest incomes were found in all districts with the majority of them found in District 4. Six of the women surveyed had weekly incomes between Afs 12,000 and Afs 24,000 and 2 had incomes above Afs 24,000 per week. Five of the women surveyed said there was no weekly income in their houses at all. Some of these women were helped by neighbours and relatives, some had borrowed money, and others had sold household possessions such as rugs, fans and fridges to pay for their basic needs.

Age:
Age varied; 70% of the women in the survey were between 30 and 50 years old, with equal numbers who were over 50 or in their 20s. A majority of the women had children under 12 years old. These women were the prime target group of the project as young children restrict the family's ability to earn income - although many of the women are forced to send their 10 and 12 year old sons out to sell fruit and cigarettes in the street.

Rent:
16 out of 26 women paid rent on the room that they occupied (65% of those surveyed) with the average cost being Afs 5,000 per room. The remaining 35% of women surveyed were staying with relatives or in houses deserted by their owners and did not have to pay rent. All of the women in the survey were displaced and many had had to move house 2 or 3 times.

3.2 **Section 2 - Project work:**
60% of the women interviewed had received work more than once from the tailoring project. All of them except one had been monitored by the technical supervisors or project manager during production. The women were all satisfied with the project and the technical support they had received.

Everyone interviewed who had received their wheat had milled it for eating. One women had sold part of her ration for buying other foodstuff, one lady had kept part of her ration in case of fighting and closure of the bazaar, and several women had cooked part of the wheat to eat in order to avoid milling costs. Most women preferred wheat flour to wheat because of the additional cost of milling the wheat, many liked the idea of receiving mixed food (rice, dahl, chickpeas) for their work. 24 women interviewed preferred food for work, 2 preferred money and 2 said they were happy with both.

3.3 **Sections 3 and 4- Nutrition and Health:**
Most of the women and their families seemed thin but healthy on their meagre diets. Most of the food described in their weekly meals was very similar, vegetables seemed plentiful and fairly cheap in August. Meat and sugar were luxuries and eaten extremely rarely. Bread was regarded as an essential part of the diet even though flour was costly. Women who had smaller incomes and spent less than Afs 10,500 per week on food (79% of those surveyed) often ate the leftovers of lunch at night or just tea and bread in order to save cooking fuel costs.

Only 2 women of those surveyed had received any free food distribution from NGOs or the UN in the last 6 months.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The project target group of needy widows and mothers is extremely vulnerable. As a result of this limited survey we can see that most families are surviving on a daily or weekly basis and that often they have had to borrow money from shopkeepers or neighbours, or have been forced to gradually sell their household possessions to temporarily solve their problems. These are not, unfortunately, long term solutions.

This survey satisfies the criteria set for the participants of the tailoring project and also affirms that monitoring and food payment has been properly carried out.

As a result of this survey it is recommended that food-for-work be continued for this target group on a sustained basis, so that the participants can benefit from a longer period of work, for example 3-4 weeks. It is also recommended that the food provided be mixed to improve nutritional health especially for families with young children who will need something more substantial in the coming winter.